

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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SAJ-01 SAM-01 /086 W

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P 080940Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 277

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3905

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: TOP COMMANDER ATTACKED IN RED FLAG

SUMMARY. HAN HSIEN-CHU, A TOP MILITARY REGION COMMANDER, HAS APPARENTLY BEEN ATTACKED IN RED FLAG. HE LAST APPEARED PUBLICLY JANUARY 1. END SUMMARY.

1. HAN HSIEN-CHU, FORMER BOSS OF FUKIEN AND NOW REGIONAL COMMANDER IN NORTHWEST CHINA, HAS APPARENTLY BEEN ATTACKED IN THE APRIL RED FLAG. THE ATTACK COMES AT THE END OF AN ARTICLE DENOUNCING A PAMPHLET PRAISING LIN PIAO. THE PAMPHLET HAD BEEN WRITTEN BY HAN'S OLD SECOND SECRETARY IN FUKIEN, CHOU CHIH-PING. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, IN EARLY 1972--AFTER LIN'S FALL--CERTAIN PEOPLE IN FUKIEN SOUGHT TO SHOW THAT THE PRO-LIN PAMPHLET'S PUBLICATION IN THREE MILLION COPIES HAD OCCURRED "BEHIND THE BACK' OF THE ORGANIZATION AND WITHOUT THE 'APPROVAL' OF ANY PERSON."

2. REF FLAG THEN RHETORICALLY ASKS "WAS IT REALLY SO? COULD
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SUCH A BIG THING BE DONE WITHOUT SOMEONE SUPPORTING AND

'APPROVING' IT? IN VIEW OF THE PAMPHLET'S BEING CIRCULATED IN SUCH LARGE NUMBERS WITH ITS PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE TIME HAS COME TO LIQUIDATE THOROUGHLY THE CONSPIRACY BEHIND ITS APPEARANCE." SINCE HAN HSIEN-CHU IS THE ONLY PERSON IN FUKIEN WHO OUTRANKED PAMPHLET AUTHOR CHOU CHIH-PING, HAN CLEARLY SEEMS ON THE HOOK FOR HAVING APPROVED ITS PUBLICATION.

3. RED FLAG NEVER DENOUNCES HAN OR EVEN CHOU BY NAME. THE LATTER IS KNOWN, HOWEVER, TO HAVE WRITTEN THE 1960 ESSAY PRAISING LIN PIAO (CURRENT BACKGROUND 896) THAT RED FLAG SAYS WAS "REVISED" AND PUBLISHED IN FUKIEN IN 1971. CHOU WAS MENTIONED IN 1972 CENTRAL COMMITTEE DOCUMENT NUMBER 24 AS HAVING WRITTEN ONE OF THE "BLACK MATERIALS" OF THE LIN PIAO CONSPIRACY (A EULOGY OF LIN).

4. IF HAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING APPROVED CHOU CHIH-PING'S PAMPHLET, HE PROBABLY HAS COMMITTED A SERIOUS ENOUGH CRIME TO JUSTIFY HIS BEING PURGED. HAN LAST APPEARED PUBLICLY JANUARY 1, IN KANSU. HIS FALL MIGHT LOWER THE SURVIVAL PROSPECTS OF OTHERS IN THE GROUP OF MILITARY COMMANDERS SHIFTED LAST DECEMBER (SEE HONG KONG 3816).
CROSS

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